

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1194

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, EC

SUBJECT: CTF'S 13TH NATIONAL CONGRESS ENDS; CALLS FOR EXPLUSION
OF PTTI AND AIFLD FROM ECUADOR

1. IN RIOBOMBA FEBRUARY 15 COMMUNIST LABOR CENTER CTE ENDED
ITS THIRTEENTH NATIONAL CONGRESS WITH CALL FOR GOVERNMENT TO
EXPEL PTTI AND AIFLD FROM COUNTRY. CTE RESOLUTION CHARGED
BOTH ORGANIZATIONS WITH ESPIONAGE AT SERVICE OF US IMPERIALISM.

2. OTHER RESOLUTIONS ATTACKED 1974 US TRADE REFORM ACT,
SUPPORTED 200 MILE ECUADOREAN TERRITORIAL SEA, CALLED FOR
COMPLETE NATIONALIZATION OF PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, DEMANDED A
GENERAL INCREASE IN WAGES AND SALARIES, AND SUPPORTED
GOVERNMENT'S PETROLEUM POLICY AND ADHESION TO OPEC.

3. OPENING CEREMONY WAS ATTENDED BY GOVERNOR OF PROVINCE
OF CHIMBORAZO AND, ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT AND LABOR MINISTER DID
NOT ATTEND, CTE LEADERSHIP DELEGATION WAS RECEIVED BY
PRESIDENT IN WEEK PRIOR TO CONGRESS. PRESIDENT AT THAT
TIME AGREED TO RECEIVE FOREIGN DELEGATES FROM ABOUT 20 COUNTRIES WHO W
ERE INVITED TO ATTEND AS OBSERVERS. CUBA,
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ROMANIA, NORTH KOREA, SOVIET UNION AND OTHER COMMUNIST
COUNTRIES HAD DELEGATIONS. JUAN CAMPOS, EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY OF THE WFTU, WAS PRESENT AS WAS A REPRESENTATIVE
IN EXILE OF THE CHILEAN CUT. PEDRO SAAD, ECUADOR'S

COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF, ATTENDED.

4. PRIOR TO CONGRESS, JACINTO FIGUEROA VERA, CEDOC (CHRISTIAN CENTER) PRESIDENT, ATTACKED CTE FOR TREASON TO THE WORKING CLASS THROUGH ITS TOTAL ADHESION TO THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

5. COMMENT: OF SINGULAR INTEREST WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S TREATMENT OF THIS EVENT. IT IS THE FIRST TIME DURING THE PRESENT REGIME THAT A DELEGATION OF TRADE UNIONISTS WAS RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF INVITING HIS ATTENDANCE AT A CONGRESS AND WIDE-SPREAD PUBLICITY WAS GIVEN TO THE MEETING. THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTENDANCE WAS IN CONTRAST TO THE LACK OF ATTENDANCE BY HIGHLY PLACED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT THE OTHER TRADE UNION CONGRESSES. IT WAS APPARENT THAT THE CTE MANAGED THE EVENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOE DESIRES FOR THERE WERE NO ATTACKS ON THE PRESENT REGIME WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN EMBARRASSING.

6. THE WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY GIVEN TO THE CONGRESS UNDER THE BENEVOLENT EYE OF THE GOVERNMENT HAS UNDOUBTEDLY CONSIDERABLY INCREASED THE PRESTIGE OF THE CTE AMONG THE WORKERS OF ECUADOR AT A TIME WHEN CEOSL AND CEDOC ARE SPLIT AND TOO WEAK TO COUNTERACT THIS DEVELOPMENT. AND, OF COURSE, THE GOE HAS LONG BEEN INTERESTED IN SEEING LABOR UNITY AND MAY VIEW AN ENHANCEMENT OF THE PRESTIGE OF THE CTE AT THIS TIME AS A MEANS TO THIS END. HOWEVER, FIERCE PERSONAL AND POLITICAL DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE CTE (THE PICHINCHA FEDERATION IS OPPOSED TO THE CONSERVATIVE LINE OF THE CENTRAL AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY WITH RESPECT TO CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT) MAY BRING DIVISION TO THE CTE ITSELF AND DASH WHATEVER HOPES THE GOVERNMENT MAY ENTERTAIN IN THIS REGARD.
BREWSTER

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